

On river banks, middle and eastern Georgia. Spring.

The species grows abundantly on steep gneiss slopes along the Savannah River about seven miles above Augusta. Type in the herbarium of the New York Botanical Garden. J. K. SMALL.

A NEW MOURIRIA FROM PORTO RICO.—*Mouriria* Aubl. is a genus of Melastomaceae including about forty species, natives of continental tropical America and the West Indies. Of these *M. Domingensis* (Tussac) Spach, a tree with ovate pinnately-veined leaves is apparently frequent on Porto Rico, and five species are recorded from Cuba. The plant here noticed was first collected by P. Sintenis near Hatillo, and specimens with foliage only were distributed from the Berlin Herbarium annotated by Professor Urban as related to *M. spathulata* Griseb., a Cuban species.

M. spathulata is, however, a species with distinctly pinnately-veined leaves, and, as shown by Linden's no. 2147, is clearly different from the Porto Rico plant under consideration, which apparently finds its nearest known relative in *M. lanccolata* Griseb., also Cuban. The new species may be characterized as follows:

✓ **Mouriria Helleri.**—A spreading shrub, 2-3 m. high, the slender branches light gray. Leaves oblong to oval, thick, bluish green, strongly 1-nerved, the few lateral veins very indistinct, obtuse at the apex, narrowed at the base, 2-3 cm. long, 1-1.7 cm. wide, the margins somewhat revolute; petioles about 1 mm. long: flowers solitary in the upper axils, few; pedicels 5-6 mm. long, 2-bracteolate at about the middle, the bractlets 1 mm. long, ovate, acute: berries orange-color, 1 cm. in diameter or more, fleshy, the persistent cup-shaped calyx with short broad acute lobes.

In sandy soil near a mangrove swamp, Cataño (Heller, no. 1372, in fruit, May 23, 1899; type); rocky places in the forest near Hatillo (Sintenis no. 6195, Dec. 2, 1877, foliage only).

N. L. BRITTON.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE CLUB

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 1901

This meeting was held at the museum, Botanical Garden, Bronx Park, at 3:30 p. m., Professor L. M. Underwood in the chair, 20 persons present.

On report of the committee on nominations, the name of Professor Charles E. Bessey was removed from the list of corresponding to that of active members.

The Club voted that beginning with January 1st, the Club meet each second Tuesday of the month at the College of Pharmacy at 8 p. m., and on each last Wednesday at 3:30 p. m. at the Botanical Garden.

The first paper was by F. S. Earle, on "*Ascocorticium* in North America," correcting the current nomenclature as to this genus.

The second paper, by Dr. Britton, "Remarks on the Flora of St. Kitts, British West Indies," was a sketch of his recent observations there, with a copious series of mounted specimens and of fruits and other specimens in formalin. Scarcely any botanical work had been done on St. Kitts previous to the explorations by Dr. Britton and Mr. John F. Cowell last summer. In all they collected about 3,500 herbarium specimens, representing perhaps half of the flora. Several tree-ferns were brought which are now making good growth, and a considerable number of cacti which are already on exhibition in the succulent house.

Dr. Britton spoke in particular of the great interest attaching to that purely tropical flora, the only plant familiar from our Atlantic coast being the introduced horseweed, *Leptilon*. St. Kitts is a volcanic mass, formed of a rugged central mountain rising to about 4,000 feet, dissected by radiating gorges which reach to the sea, and wholly surrounded by a fringe of arable land on the shore. Sides of steep ravines 300 feet deep were often completely covered with a prodigious growth of tree-ferns; there were four or five species in the ravines and one or two others more in the denser forests; some reached a height of 50 feet; one species was chiefly prostrate. A good number of the filmy ferns were found and several Gleicheniaceae at high altitudes, where ferns constituted the chief flora. No *Equiseta* were found; among the lycopods, a few specimens of *Psilotum* on tree-trunks, some large and handsome species of *Selaginella*, and three of *Lycopodium*, of which one conspicuous species was known to the negroes as "staghorn." The grasses number 30 or more, the largest a

Gynerium known as wild cane or dumb cane. Guinea-grass, *Panicum maximum*, is the entire source of hay. Sedges were few, for there is little standing water (except a littoral salt marsh), only a little pond near a mountain summit at 3,500 feet, and a little lake in the bottom of the old crater of the volcano, Mt. Misery. A *Scleria* with saw-edged leaves is an obstacle on mountain-trails.

Aroids are very conspicuous, and in great quantity, but only about 8 species; two of *Anthurium*, climbing trees, two of *Philodendron*, one with perforated leaves; one *Dieffenbachia*; and a species known as elephant's ears, forming great masses, with leaves sometimes five feet long.

Only two palms were found, one, a *Bactris*, reaching thirty feet; two species of *Commelina*; three or four species of *Tillandsia*; a *Dioscorea* with a remarkable purple leaf, now growing in the propagating house; about sixteen orchids; and one gymnosperm, a *Podocarpus* abundant high up, and known as "wild rosemary tree." Among higher plants the pepper family, the Papilionaceae and allies, *Euphorbia* and *Melastoma* families are numerous. The Compositae are also numerously present, but chiefly as weeds; a handsome new purple-flowered *Eupatorium* was found on the top of Mt. Misery forming a shrub eight to ten feet high. The alligator-pear, *Persea gratissima*, is quite abundant. There are four species of *Ficus*, a wild cherry, a *Viola*, etc. An introduced raspberry occurred in a mountain pasture at 2,000 feet. Among the more peculiar plants were the *Cecropia*, with white under surfaces of leaves, *Marcgravia* climbing appressed to trees to the height of fifty feet, and *Hillia*, interesting from its large lustrous white flowers.

The results of Dr. Britton and Mr. Cowell's expedition bid fair to prove of high economic importance aside from their scientific value. The expedition owed much to the kind assistance of the planters, who detailed their negroes and horses for the service of the explorers. Without such aid it would have been difficult to penetrate the forest-belt, through which trails had first to be cut.

Further remarks were added by Dr. Underwood, regarding a dodder in tops of trees in Porto Rico; by Mr. Barnhart, on a

Utricularia among the specimens exhibited from St. Kitts; by Mr. F. S. Earle on the few fungi collected; and by Mrs. Britton on the other cryptogams, which numbered 81, and included a *Vittaria* prothallium.

EDWARD S. BURGESS,
Secretary.

NEWS ITEMS

Professor W. J. Spillman, formerly of the Washington Agricultural Experiment Station, has been appointed Agrostologist of the U. S. Department of Agriculture to succeed Professor F. Lamson-Scribner, who has resigned to become Chief of the Insular Bureau of Agriculture in the Philippines.

The third annual meeting of the Botanists of the Central States was held at the University of Chicago, December 31, 1901, and January 1 and 2, 1902, in connection with the meeting of the American Society of Naturalists. The program, as announced, included twenty-seven botanical papers.

The seventh annual winter meeting of the Vermont Botanical Club will be held at the University of Vermont, Burlington, January 24th and 25th. The annual address is to be delivered by Professor B. L. Robinson, of Harvard University, his subject being "Some recent Advances in the Classification of the Flowering Plants." A full and interesting program is promised.

A case of "duplication of contributions" comparable with that referred to by Dr. MacDougal in *TORREYA* for November last is an article on "The Nomenclature of *Lachnanthes*," by James Britten, F.L.S., in the *Journal of Botany* for January, 1902. In this correction of current nomenclature, Mr. Britten traverses practically the ground covered by Mr. Roland M. Harper in his notes on the "Synonymy of *Burmannia* and *Gyrotheca*," published in *TORREYA* for March, 1901, and reaches the same results.

At the Nineteenth Congress of the American Ornithologists' Union, which met in New York City November 11-15, 1901,